

General Meeting

Oct 25, 1981

A special congratulation must be given to Joe Burns, our program chairman, for bringing together a group of speakers who were both informative and inspiring. Ms. Kathy Coreless, representing Women, Inc., stressed the idea of networking the various human resources in the Lehigh Valley in an attempt to give the best available assistance to the most people. ~~The Women, Inc. offer workshops in~~ ~~assertiveness training~~ takes a holistic approach to women's problems including workshops in assertiveness training, counseling, referrals, and a Women's Center. Women Inc., has 160 ^{active} members ~~and a mailing~~ and reaches 1200 women ~~by way~~ each month with their newsletter.

Lynn Benson from Confront stressed that ~~the~~ Confront ~~was~~ no longer "just a drug rehab center." Their main focus now is to show people how to avoid self oppression and learn self love. This is accomplished through various channels including "grounding"

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Whereby a person learned to direct his energy outward instead of keeping it inside where it is self directed and destructive. Confront also has a psychiatrist and various workshops designed to help people with Fear and Guilt, Sex and Religion, Culture and Shame.

Jack Diamond, representative of Family Counseling Services of Bethlehem ~~which has been~~ established in 1902, ~~he~~ ~~was~~ gave us ~~the~~ history of counseling and self-help organizations ^{in the 20th century}. ~~Our~~ ~~counselors~~ try to break down the resistance a person has to being helped. FCS has changed its image of "marriage counseling" to meet a broad demand for ^{counseling} ~~personal~~ problems among teenagers ~~and~~ adults, straights and gays with every kind of personality problem.

Finally, Mary Nancarrow of the Pennsylvania Lesbian and Gay ^{Support} Networks, offered help from another direction. Up to ~~now~~ ^{this point}, the program was directed to self help, Mary offered help from a different source, our politicians. She urged us

to register ~~for~~ and to vote for people who, if not for gays, ~~were~~^{are} at least not against gays. Their support network is fighting for gays rights in housing and employment, and freedom from harassment in all phases of the society. They will be putting out legislative guides and endorsing candidates who are pro gay. Mary warns that their work is an uphill battle without gays registered to vote. Politicians do not think of gays as constituents due to their apathy on election day.